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SEG news release

Society of Exploration Geophysicists

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MONTHLY SEISMIC CREW COUNT

(Month of December, 1985)

The number of seismic land crews and marine vessels searching for oil and gas in the U.S. and U.S. waters during December decreased by twenty-three from the November total. The land crew total decreased by eighteen crews and the marine crew total decreased by five crews for a net decrease of twenty-three. The crew count survey has historically shown a significant decrease during the month of December.

The December total (323) represents a decrease of 7% from last month, a 31% decrease from December, 1984, a 34% decrease from December, 1983, a 32% decrease from December, 1982, a 54% decrease from December, 1981, a 44% decrease from December, 1980, and a decrease of 28% from the same month in 1979.

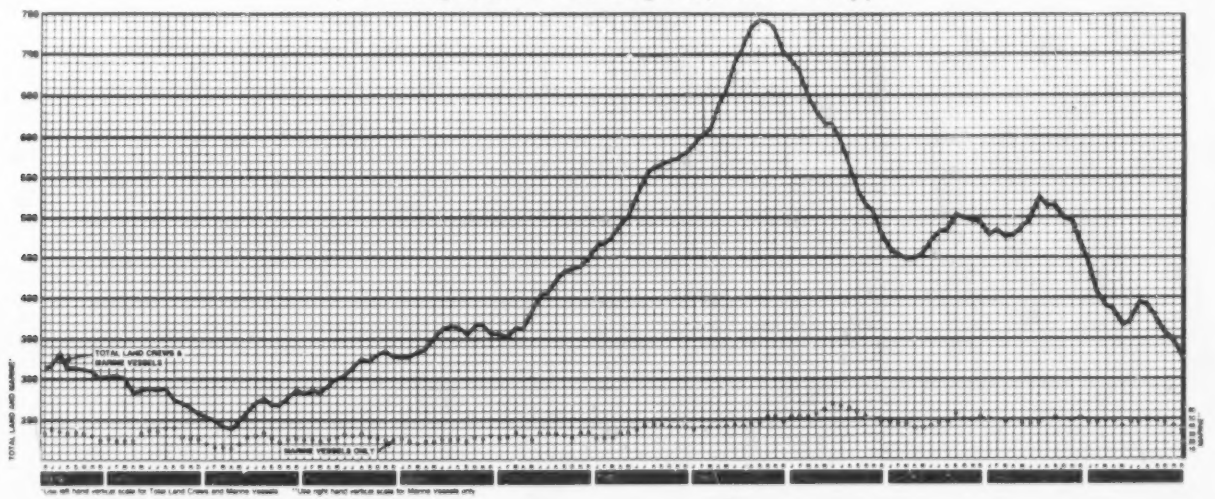
During December, eleven contractors were operating fourteen of the 255 land crews and two of the thirty-six vessels on a speculative basis.

TOTAL LAND & MARINE CREWS:	This Month	Last Month	Dec.'84	Dec.'83	Dec.'82	Dec.'81	Dec.'80	Dec.'79
	323	346	466	493	477	703	580	450

	LAND CREWS								MARINE VESSELS							
	This Mo.	Last Mo.	Dec. 1984	Dec. 1983	Dec. 1982	Dec. 1981	Dec. 1980	Dec. 1979	This Mo.	Last Mo.	Dec. 1984	Dec. 1983	Dec. 1982	Dec. 1981	Dec. 1980	Dec. 1979
64 Contr's:	255	273	378	408	386	613	500	380	30	35	44	41	42	39	34	25
9 Oil Co's:	32	32	36	37	42	43	40	39	6	6	8	7	7	8	6	4
1 Gov't.:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Totals	287	305	414	445	428	656	540	419	36	41	52	48	49	47	40	31

SEISMIC CREW COUNT

(The leading indicator of oil and gas exploration activity.)



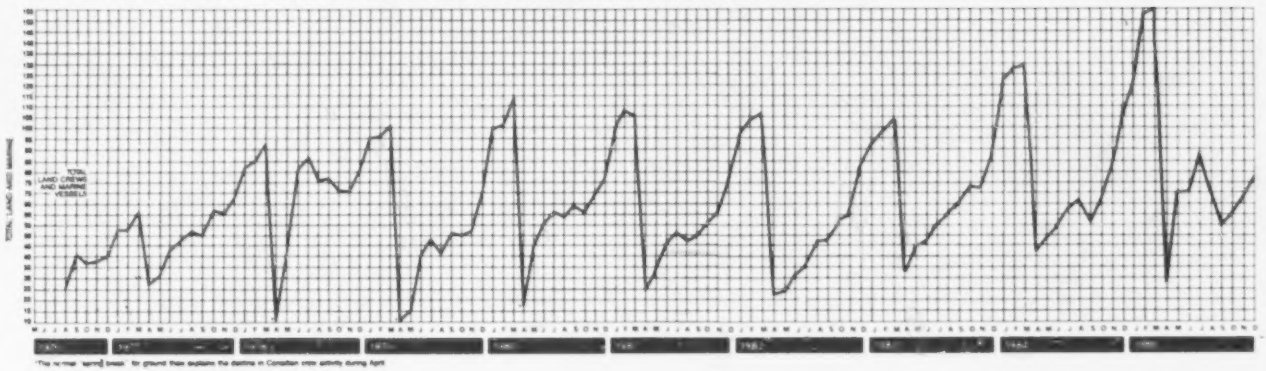
*Results of SEG's Seismic Crew Count of land and marine vessels engaged in exploration for oil and gas in the USA and USA waters, including Alaska, for the month indicated. These figures are compiled from data reported by oil companies operating company-owned seismic exploration crews and vessels and by contract seismic exploration companies. Special significance is attached to seismic crew activity since it is recognized as the leading indicator of all petroleum exploration activity.

CANADIAN SEISMIC CREW COUNT

DECEMBER, 1985 (November figures in parentheses)

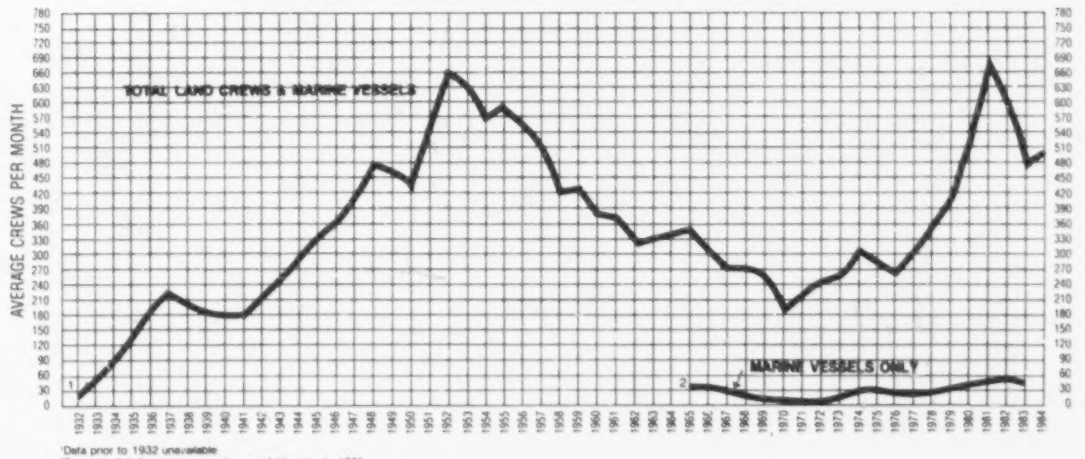
	Land Crews	Marine Vessels
28 Contractors:	73 (64)	2 (2)
2 Oil Companies:	3 (3)	0 (0)
Totals:	76 (67)	2 (2)

CANADIAN SEISMIC CREW COUNT
(The leading indicator of oil and gas exploration activity.)



SEG's monthly USA Seismic Crew survey was organized in 1974 at the request of the United States' Federal Energy Administration. The report is currently submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy. Both the U.S. and the international surveys are financed in part by a grant from the International Association of Geophysical Contractors.

HISTORY OF SEISMIC EXPLORATION IN THE UNITED STATES
(SEISMIC CREWS SEARCHING FOR OIL & GAS)



[1]Data prior to 1932 unavailable
[2]Separate data for marine vessels unavailable prior to 1965